

in its full virulence to any part of the world, thus connecting the negligence or ignorance of the municipal authorities in one locality with the hideous tragedies of a typhoid outbreak in another, far removed from the original source of infection.

Necessity of Federal Regulation.—It costs the government of the United States \$18,000 to complete the education of an officer for the navy. After the most thorough and searching examination, the candidates are selected to serve in maintaining the nation and protecting commerce. The same is true to a large extent of the army. Why should an army and a navy be maintained against possible destruction to empire or commerce while a national menace to life is met by partially prepared or ignorant local authorities? Why should not the maintenance of a National Health Department, equipped with men prepared with the care given to the education of the navy or army officer be considered obligatory? No such national safeguard exists, except in quarantine stations. There is, as it were, a Foreign Office but no Home Office or Department of the Interior for health matters.

Our present system is analagous to despatching a body of city police to meet an invading army or to attack an enemy who had seized some important town. In a military sense the idea is ridiculous, yet this is exactly what is done in coping with a national enemy like typhoid fever. At present, in Canada and the United States, it is not possible for an expert with the authority of the Federal Government to compel a small city whose water and drainage system may be a source of national danger, to correct this condition. That the Ottawa authorities did not realize the far-reaching power of their epidemics, is shown by the fact that they permitted their plan for the annual exhibition, held at Ottawa, to be carried out, drawing thousands to that city, at a time when new cases of typhoid were still being reported.

I am told that the experience through which Ottawa has just passed could be repeated at Montreal; that the relation of water supply to sewage is such that a contamination as it occurred at Ottawa might take place at any time at Montreal. If the National Government were responsible for the water supply and sewage, as it is for quarantine stations, coast defences, light houses and harbors, it would be possible to institute uniform measures approved by the highest authorities. Until some such plan is adopted, this question of vital importance will be at the mercy of political manipulation and the ignorance of half-trained officials.

As stated at the beginning of this article, these opinions are expressed with regard to typhoid fever in general. I do not wish to convey the impression, that what has been witnessed in the state of affairs prevalent in Ottawa is peculiar to that city; the menace lurks, under our present health regulations, in many large towns throughout the continent. The grave-yards of Philadelphia and Baltimore are filled with the silent victims of municipal ignorance or political corruption. What, I trust, has been shown is that a typhoid fever outbreak of the proportion of that in Ottawa, is a subject for widespread concern. It calls for the most serious consideration of the present health regulations, which make possible so appalling a destruction of life and health in an otherwise fair city.

Is it possible to allow longer so subtle and hideous a national enemy to be met only by local health officers whose training may be inferior and whose appointment may have been the price of some political favor? Why cannot our health officers, like our military and naval officers, be removed from petty political influences? Why should not this continent benefit in its maintenance of health by the highest scientific ability? Why should commerce receive more adequate protection than public health? Finally, Ottawa's epidemics, and all outbreaks of like proportion, must remain in their consequences a national and international menace for years to come.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S LUMBER INDUSTRY

The opening weeks of the new year have brought indications of a progressive movement for 1913. The managing director of the Atlantic Sugar Refineries, Limited, visited St. John with other officers of the company to arrange for immediate work on the foundation of the sugar refinery. The foundation work will be done by an American concern. There will be a group of seven buildings.

The announcement is made that the plans of the Grand Falls Company for the development of electrical power on a large scale, and the erection of a large pulp mill at Grand Falls, are being prepared.

At Taylor Village, near Dorchester, a crew of men are at work prospecting for manganese, and the indications are favorable.

A landscape architect has arrived at St. John from Montreal to plan a model workingman's village for the employees of the Maritime Motor Car Company, three miles from the city.

The St. John Valley Railway Company have given orders for a sufficient quantity of 80-pound rails to lay 120 miles between Gagetown and Centreville, passing through the city of Fredericton. These rails are to be delivered in June and July, and it is expected that this portion of the line will be nearly finished this year.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company will increase its accommodation for cars on its property at the head of St. John Harbor, where last year it laid extensive tracks and built warehouses.

A member of a large lumber concern in Boston was in the city last week placing orders, and states that he expects to buy 12,000,000 feet of New Brunswick lumber. Speaking for the lumber interests of the United States, he said they did not look for any change in the lumber tariff and did not want any.

There have been notable increases in the last year in the quantity of spruce shipped from Northern New Brunswick to Montreal, and a number of cities in Ontario, Toronto included. This market has been of great value at a time when ocean freights for lumber were practically prohibitive.

The present winter has been almost the mildest on record, and quite the worst for lumbering operations in the history of the trade. There has been more water in the swamps, and the absence of snow has greatly impeded work, and the cut of logs will, therefore, be very much smaller than usual.

The Dominion Coal Company made plans last year for the extension of their plant for handling coal at St. John. It is stated that this work will be carried out this year.

Norton Griffiths Company, Limited, are asking some financial concessions from the city and province with a view to making the new drydock 1,150 feet long instead of 900 feet, and offer in return to reclaim a site for steel works and ship-building plant, and to bring about the establishment of these industries.

AT NIAGARA FALLS.

The year 1912 was a good one at Niagara Falls, Ont. Possibly \$300,000 worth of residential building and fully \$600,000 of factory buildings, mostly additions to present factories, were erected. Six new industries were located there during the year, and prospects for 1913 are exceptionally bright. In addition, the three great power development companies operating there have expended many millions in increasing their plants.

The Excelsior Brick Company has increased the amount of its capital stock from \$150,000 to \$250,000, such increase consisting of 1,000 shares of new stock of \$100 each.